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Perceptions and expectations of authorship: an e-learning tool facilitating discussion and reflection

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Supervision as pedagogy

Alignment tools = facilitate pedagogical discussion

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Why Authorship?

The Australian Code for Responsible Research Practice

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Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research

- Institutions *must* have a policy for criteria on authorship
- Authorship should not be offered to those who do not meet requirements
- Collaborative authors should agree on authorship
- Those offered authorship must accept or decline *in writing*

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Issues arising from the Code

- Agreement implies discussion, equality
- Supervision relationship: "master/apprentice", "mentor/mentee", "pastoral" etcetera.
- Supervision relationship: Unequal power relationship
- Supervision relationship: Pedagogical relationship
- "Positions mentoring" (Grant, 2005) towards confident negotiation of authorship and other academic matters
- Reflective thinking model: "habitual action", "thoughtful action", "reflection" on "content", "reflection" on "process" and finally "critical review of suppositions of subject discipline and existing knowledge" (Chan et al., 2002)
- Need for "alignment tool" that facilitates discussion, negotiation indicated

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Choice of Online Medium

- Online social network sites and social network based application highly popular

Result in:

- Direct communication between users over distance (remote candidates)
- Lowering of barriers to interaction
- More self-disclosure
- Contrast and comparison of opinions
- Independent completion (results from "friends" only disclosed at completion)

(Ellison et al, 2007, Gjoka et al, 2008, Nazir et al, 2008)

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Project Objectives

To develop a questionnaire that

- ascertains HDR candidates and supervisors' perceptions of issues related to authorship
- is reusable at different stages of candidature
- encourages reflection
- Encourages discussion on area

To create an online discussion tool that

- allows independent completion of the questionnaire
- encourages independent reflection on answers
- highlights areas for discussion
- can be utilised with other HDR content requiring reflection
- encourages discussion of issues raised in the Code
- can be accompanied by online worksheets on the Code

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Results: Initial Pilot Study

- 19 HDR candidates & 18 supervisors in School of Agriculture, Food & Wine recruited
- Given draft authorship questionnaire
- Given evaluation survey on questionnaire & potential online tool
- Results showed:

Areas of agreement:

- Supervision is sufficient grounds to claim authorship
- Supervisors should "help" their students write papers
- Supervisor should determine the order of authorship "in some circumstances"
- If anyone assists in writing or editing an article they should be named author in "some circumstances"

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Results: Initial Pilot Study



Areas of greatest disagreement:

- A thesis can incorporate the work of others in the department or discipline
- The supervisor should "help" the student write the thesis

Areas for discussion:

- Agreement which appears to contravene the Code (authorship claims)
- Nature of contribution in order to claim authorship
- Degree of "help" in paper writing or thesis writing
- Process(es) for determining authorship and order of authorship
- Disciplinary differences
- What is meant by "under some circumstances"

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Results: Initial Pilot Study

Evaluation of survey and potential as online tool:

- Overall relevant content
- Online format viewed as potentially more convenient than paper-based
- Unsure if it would translate into more participation
- A number of other issues of interest to HDRs raised e.g. workload, supervision meetings etcetera

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Authorship Survey

http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHZqMEEx5amtS_Y1VrcDBzUIZkdC1qcGc6MA..

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Online Worksheet(s)

- Management of research data & primary materials
[\\uofa\users\\$\17a1153577\Desktop\draft1authorship_Datamanagementworksheet.mht](\\uofa\users$\17a1153577\Desktop\draft1authorship_Datamanagementworksheet.mht)
- Publication & dissemination of research findings
- Authorship

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Current Project Status

- Recruitment of supervisors and students to trial & evaluate online survey
- Refinement of accompanying worksheets (sound and pictures)
- Exploring programming enhancements for discussion tool (Issues copying of survey, new survey completed for each HDR candidate)
- Beta version on Adelaide Graduate Centre website by Christmas
- Full online toolkit on AGC website by March 2009



Get your own version of the Authorship Survey

Email Michelle Picard at:

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